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RESEARCH ARTICLE

The Relationship Between National Language & National Identity and its Role in National Security

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ABSTRACT

The present study aimed to investigate the relationship between language and national identity and its role in national security. This research used a descriptive-analytical and review method. Initially, 48 articles related to the components of national language, national identity, and national security were downloaded from various sites. Initially, and topics related to the research were extracted. The results of this research showed that the national language and national identity have an inextricable relationship and link; because the strengthening of each lead to the strengthening of the other and both components play a fundamental role in providing national security; because when language acts as an element of identity for society and plays a role in national cohesion, it moves towards ensuring national security. Also, the existence of a relationship between the national language and national identity on the one hand, and national security, on the other hand, indicates that recognizing the impact of language on national security leads to greater attention being paid to the influential aspects of language on national security, and on the other hand, it leads to Society should be aware of the linguistic challenges it faces, especially regarding the languages of ethnicities and minorities, and should know the solutions to confront them. Since national security is the most basic and inevitable vital necessity of every country, and without it, freedom, development, and progress of any society or country are not possible, ensuring national security requires the expansion of the national language and strengthening of the foundations of national identity.

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Introduction

In recent years, attention has been increasingly focused on the complex sociological factors related to the nature of language and its uses. Attention to identity and how it is formed and transmitted through language has also formed part of the research process. In other words, after long periods of dominance of structuralism and cognitive views on the nature of language, attention has increased to the social environment, social interaction and participation, social bases, and social identity. Language is viewed as a base for the formation of identity, and the investigation of language as a tool for the formation of identity is considered a nebulous part of the discussion of social partnerships and interactions (Niazi, Shafai Moghadam & Khettkar, 2013, p. 206).

Identity has ethnic, national, linguistic, and religious aspects. The identity that encompasses a nation is called national identity. National identity is the highest and most superior level of human identity that was formed in the twentieth century after the emergence of the United

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Nations system (after World War II when the countries of the world entered into a specific bloc). This type of identity has a unique characteristic that some call it identity-centric (Qamari & Hassanzadeh, 2010, p. 158).

In other words, national identity is a social, political, and modern phenomenon that has found its way to third-world and newly independent countries since the late nineteenth century. For this reason, the formation of national identity can be considered concurrent with the formation of the nation in its modern sense (Elem, 2007). Also, national identity is considered the most comprehensive and at the same time the most legitimate level of identity in all social systems (Heidari, 2004).

National identity is a subjective concept that represents belonging to a particular national group. National identity is accompanied by a complex set of conditions and emotions that reflect an individual's attitude towards their group and other groups. The issue of national identity in Afghanistan has always been one of the most sensitive political and cultural issues, because of linguistic, ethnic, cultural, and religious differences in Afghanistan and ethnic and cultural similarities with the peoples of neighboring countries, as well as war, conflict, and destruction in Afghanistan, have caused the national identity in this country to not be fully formed (Ghaffari Nasab, Pouya, Qasemi Nejad & Musawat, 2018, p. 59). On the other hand, when language acts as an element of identity for society and plays a role in national cohesion, it moves towards ensuring national security (Qamari, 2008, p. 95); therefore, recognizing the impact of language on national security causes experts to pay more attention to the influential aspects of language on national security, especially the national language.

Considering what has been stated, and considering that language and national identity play a major role in ensuring national security, and understanding the necessity of ensuring national security as much as possible by taking advantage of the country's current conditions is considered one of the country's basic needs; However, studies show that not enough research has been done on this subject. Accordingly, this article further examines the relationship between language and identity and their role in ensuring national security.

Materials & Methods

This research was conducted using a descriptive-analytical method and in the form of a review. Initially, 48 articles related to the components of national language, national identity, and national security were downloaded from various sites, and topics related to the research were extracted. Also, about seven books related to the topic were studied, and materials related to the research were used.

Results

Given that the title of this research includes the three components of national language, national identity, and national security, the theories, concepts, and discussions related to them were examined, which are mentioned below.

1- National language

Language is not only considered a social product, a tool and medium of communication but also a part of the text of social relations that plays an important role in the production and reproduction of the culture and specific identity of each society. If this element is lost or somehow changed or lost, the cultural identity and national identity of that society will certainly be lost (Heidari, 2004).

Language is a fundamental tool for understanding human behavior, and it allows us to understand how humans view the events in their living environment and how they analyze and describe them. Therefore, by studying language in various societies, cultural anthropologists can gain more knowledge about a society's culture, ways of thinking, and worldview, and can conduct more appropriate analysis and description. In other words, it is by analyzing the language of the society that it is possible to obtain information about the culture and way of thinking of that society and determine its influence on the language (Qaraei Moghadam, 2012, p. 84).

On the other hand, language is a tool of the media, through which groups are either strengthened or humiliated; but Price points out that language itself cannot be an end; Media can turn language into a target; Basically, the invasion of language and culture continues until the colonized society is not productive in the field of language and culture (Price, 2003).

Paying attention to and respecting the language of ethnic groups, as well as fair treatment by rulers, preventing the raising of divisive issues and fueling linguistic disputes, and avoiding pushing ethnic groups and linguistic minorities away from the national language toward building an ethnic identity based on language, contribute to the cohesion of national identity and prevent linguistic challenges. Rulers and politicians have used

language to identify people, stimulate national feelings, and create national and transnational unity and solidarity. The use of words such as pan-Arabism and Arab nationalism and the formation of associations such as the Arab Union and the Association of Persian Speakers of Central Asia shows the role of the language component in creating national and transnational identity (Qamari, 2008).

2- National identity

The highest level of identity has been described as national identity, which shows the dependence and belonging of an individual to a national community. This belonging can be seen in the feeling of loyalty to the homeland, love for fellow countrymen, and the protection of national identity that prevents the domination of others over one's land. And it leads to scientific, literary, and industrial progress and civil-cultural strengthening (Fayaz and Imani, 2010). National identity is a set of positive tendencies and attitudes towards factors, elements, and patterns that give identity and unify at the level of a country as a political unit (Zolfaghari, 2007). National identity is a kind of feeling of commitment and emotional belonging to the general (national) society, which causes the unity and cohesion of the society and forms a part of the individual's identity (Mirzapour & Zamani, 1400). Also, national identity shows the individual's dependence on the national community and is formed when all members of the community have a correct image of its constituent parts because the identity of individuals is formed in the context of society and culture (Zolfaghari, 2007).

Identity has certain components, and one of them is national identity (Ishani, 2016). National identity is a relatively new and multidimensional phenomenon consisting of multiple components such as territory, history, culture, society, government, language, religion, and other common elements and foundations to which members of a society feel a sense of belonging, commitment, and loyalty. These common elements, while creating solidarity between members of a society, also separate them from other societies. In the last half-century, the study of national identity has been one of the topics that has attracted the attention of sociological scholars and is of great importance. From a sociological perspective, national identity is important in that it is considered one of the important factors of social cohesion and national harmony in any society. The stronger and more coherent a nation's identity is, the more successful it will be in consolidating the foundations of solidarity and social harmony (Momeni, 1402, p. 58).

National identity is the feeling of loyalty and belonging to common factors and symbols in the national community and among the defined political borders, which includes distinguishing symbols such as land, customs, rituals, history, and language (Yousefi, 1380, quoted by Soghabi & Qobadi, 1392, p. 118). National identity, as a factor of creating a sense of belonging among members of the society, is formed based on the difference between "us" and "others"; But who fits in our group and who doesn't, changes according to the predetermined plans and related platforms and structures (Sahin, 2011).

National identity is included in the group of individual-based social identities; therefore, since in individual-based identity, identity formation occurs through the internalization of experiences resulting from the socialization process (Brewer, 2001), the formation of national identity should also rely on this same process.

National identity is a set of positive tendencies and attitudes towards factors, elements, and patterns that provide identity and integration at the level of a country as a political unit (Sani' Ejlal, 2005, p. 104). To maintain the unity and cohesion of their nation, which is considered one of the requirements for creating security in the society, and pursuing their different goals and policies, the different countries of the world must emphasize the issue of a unified national identity; Realization of this integration is possible with the help of history, culture, traditions and common interests and belongings of a nation; The importance of this issue is to the extent that countries like America, which do not benefit from much historical history, and their people also do not benefit from the same national, ethnic and cultural supports. They build identity through planning; perhaps the experience of these societies has led thinkers to believe that the concept of nation is a product of the modern era and that modern nation-states shape it (Kaosi, 2009, p. 4).

Any nation that has been settled in a specific territory for a long time has, throughout its history, developed a set of unique interests and characteristics that have distinguished it from other nations, and it resorts to such characteristics in defining itself and introducing itself to others. This nation can be considered to have a national identity that has been created from the gradual combination of its accepted values and norms over successive generations (Rabbani, 2002, p. 88).

Afghanistan is a country where national identity is very rare; in fact, identity is a set of heritage that belongs to it. Identity in the vast territory called Afghanistan has geographical, linguistic, religious, and ethnic aspects; it is clear, of course, that ethnic identity has a greater influence on shaping behavior. In Afghan society, individuals are not placed in the same position from the start, and categorization criteria, including ethnic and kinship characteristics, greatly influence their social status (Hatton, 2010, p. 34).

Considering that national identity in other countries has brought about their cohesion, unity, and convergence, and has provided the basis for progress and development; Therefore, national identity is an issue that, if not addressed, will once again cause conflict, fragmentation, backwardness, and the like in Afghanistan; therefore, there is a need to focus on strengthening national identity, and one of the solutions is to strengthen the national language.

3- The relationship between language and national identity

National identity and national language influence each other. On the one hand, national identity is formed more based on national language, and on the other hand, the national language is influenced by national identity. The modern approach of linguists suggests that the human cognitive and perceptual system is not separate from the linguistic structure; in other words, language is not only not neutral amid facts and knowledge of the surroundings; but it is also influential in the construction of facts and reflects human concepts and interactions with the world. Benjamin Lee Wolfer (1897-1941) was the first to investigate the relationship seriously and empirically between language and cognition. Wangstein (1951-1988) also believed in the connection between language and the expression of reality (quoted in Qamari & Hassanzadeh, 2010, p. 159).

Language is an effective indicator in creating the integrity of national identity. A factor that undermines a unified identity and national territorial unity, and ultimately the sense of belonging to values, norms, and common land, is considered an anti-security factor. In the absence of national cohesion, the ground for instability is prepared, and every political system is organized based on common and generally agreed values. In the event of disruption in the identity system weakening of common values, and ultimately social incoherence, the political system faces fundamental challenges (Johnson, 1983).

The relationship between identity and language and how the two interact as two components of the infrastructure of human societies is so important that some sociologists and social science analysts believe that nations are not born in the modern era; Rather, we should consider them the result of the reconstruction of older territorial identities that are influenced by traditions, history, language, religion, environmental and geographical factors, and especially myths (Deylam Salehi, 2006).

Language and identity and their role in organizing the thought and culture of society cannot be concealed, but only by appealing to and paying attention to the historical fate of language and its impact on ethnic and national identity, relying on historical and cultural works of the past, It cannot meet the hidden and obvious needs of the future. This theory does not reduce the necessity of addressing this issue; rather, it emphasizes its necessity and at the same time, considers the choice of the path of investigation important (Mansourian, 2006).

Language is the most pervasive common element of identity that, regardless of geography and territorial proximity, can largely assume common views, values, and beliefs in social interaction and the transmission of this set across generations. Therefore, among the elements of identity, language ranks first in the communication network and social interaction (Niyazi, Shafaei Moghadam, & Khedmatkar, 2013, p. 205). On this basis, it can be used to ensure national identity.

In addition to the main role of language, which is communication, another important role is to create identity in individuals and determine their loyalty (Shohamy, 2006). Language acts as a connecting factor for the nation and is the main factor in communication and cultural fluidity. National identity is inextricably linked to the national language. Hobsbawm has stated in this regard that colonial countries that gained independence after World War II spontaneously conceived of a national language originating from within the nation to serve as the basis of national education and culture. Urdu in Pakistan, Hindi in India, Sinhala in Sri Lanka, Arabic in Algeria, and so on (Hobsbawm, 1996, p18). He also supports the theory that national identity and national language are influenced by others, and believes that national languages emerged as a result of increased literacy and widespread political participation because people needed to communicate more fully with each other in a democratic environment (Hobsbawm, 1996, p. 4).

Linguistic beliefs refer to the beliefs about language that underlie any policy. For example, some believe that nations and languages are equal, so language can be a symbol and a factor in national unity. The second component is linguistic usage, which refers to the environment of that language and indicates the type of practical uses of the language. The use of specific languages in specific places and environments without regard to policy, beliefs, or other reasons is an example of this. The third component, according to Spolsky, is language management which refers to specific actions to manage linguistic behavior in a specific environment. Optimal use of these three components can lead to better exploitation of national cohesion to establish national security (Qamari, 2008, p. 102).

4- The relationship between language and national security

Language is a component of national security that has a dual role. Where it acts as an identity-building factor in the national cohesion of society, the positive role of language becomes evident. When it becomes a factor in creating crises among ethnic groups and becomes a pawn of Western hegemonic governments, it becomes a challenge threatening national security (Qamari, 2008). National security has been the focus of the attention of political scientists, social scientists, and sociologists such as Wolfers (1962), Trigger and Simoni (1973), Buzan (2008), Mortimer (2001), & Shohami (2006).

Some experts, including Shohami (2004), consider language to be a component of national security and even a part of national security, and some, like Agarwal (1997), believe in the indirect and mediated effect of language and consider language to be a factor of national and social integration, and consider identity and cultural issues to be intermediate links in this process.

Naming countries after the language spoken by the people there shows the characteristics of language identity. Language and identity were mostly seen in Europe; where language acted as a key factor in the emergence of independent countries. These countries mixed their names with their languages a revolution that, according to Gubbins and Holt (2002), was necessary to legitimize the political power of the rulers. National security means integrated identity national cohesion and preservation of basic values (Hajiani, 2005, p. 25).

Language has an important role in national security to the extent that some experts believe that language is a part of national security. Language is considered to be the strongest component of national security after the territory and religion. Its positive performance is in giving identity to the society and as a result, strengthening national cohesion. On the other hand, its function as a threat to national security is when, under the guise of seeking independence and defending ethnicities, it becomes a tool for individuals, groups, and foreign power-seeking governments to create ethnic and sectarian unrest (Qamari, 2008, p. 105). The existence of a relationship between language on the one hand and culture, national identity, and national security on the other hand indicates that recognizing the impact of language on national security causes attention to be paid to the influential aspects of language on national security and the opinions of experts, especially regarding the national language, and on the other hand, it causes society to become aware of the linguistic challenges it faces, especially regarding the languages of ethnicities and minorities, and to recognize the solutions to confront them (Qamari, 2008, p. 96).

Finally, it can be said that national security is the most basic and inevitable vital necessity of every country, and without it, freedom, development, and progress of any society or country are not possible. To ensure this, there is a need to expand the national language and strengthen the foundations of national identity.

Conclusion

The national language helps to consolidate national identity and prevents language challenges. Rulers and politicians have used language to give identity to people, to stimulate national feelings, and to create national and transnational unity and solidarity. If the element of the national language is lost or somehow changed or distorted, the cultural and national identity of that society will certainly be distorted.

Language is an effective indicator in creating the integrity of national identity. A factor that undermines the identity of national territorial integrity and unity, and ultimately the sense of belonging to values, norms, and common land, is considered an anti-security factor because, in the absence of national cohesion, the ground is prepared for instability. Every political system is organized based on common and generally agreed values, and in the event of disruption in the identity system weakening of common values, and ultimately social incoherence, the political system faces fundamental challenges.

Language acts as a connecting factor of the nation and is the main factor of communication and cultural fluidity. National identity is inextricably linked to the national language. National identity is a multidimensional phenomenon consisting of multiple components such as territory, history, culture, society, government, language, religion, and other common elements and foundations to which members of a society have a sense of belonging, commitment, and loyalty. These common elements, while creating solidarity between members of a society, separate them from other societies.

Language plays an important role in national security. Some experts believe that language is part of national security. After the components of territory and religion, language is considered the strongest component of national security because its positive function is to provide identity to society and, as a result, strengthen national cohesion.

The existence of a relationship between language on the one hand and national identity and national security on the other hand indicates that recognizing the impact of language on national security leads to greater attention being paid to the influential aspects of language on national security, and on the other hand, it makes society aware of the linguistic challenges it faces, especially regarding the languages of ethnicities and minorities, and recognizes the solutions to confront them.

Since national security is the most basic and inevitable vital necessity of every country, and without it, freedom, development, and progress of any society or country are not possible, to ensure it, there is a need to expand the national language and strengthen the foundations of national identity.

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